



Update from our President Northumberland Medical Arts Inc.

The CTA has been keeping in touch with council to ensure that we are kept up-to-date with respect to the \$312K waiver requested by the clinic. At this moment, we still do not have a date for the next council vote.

Below is a quote from Mayor Brocanier's Email response to us on Jan. 26, 2016

"we are collaborating on an accurate response to all questions and there is some legal consultation required"

On January 28, Northumberland 89.7 News reported that the decision by Cobourg Council to waive the \$312K will be delayed indefinitely and that tenders issued for the construction of the Medical Arts Building have been cancelled.

Upcoming Events



CTA Delegation on the
Marina at Cobourg Town
Council
7 pm

About the Cobourg Taxpayers Association

The Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) is a non-partisan provincially incorporated not-for profit organization.

Founded in September 2015, it is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and its mandate is carried out with the assistance of an Advisory Committee.

The CTA believes that in order for Council to deliver good



CTA Supporter Question for January

"How many members of your immediate family are without a family doctor?"

Please reply to: cta@cobourgtaxpayers.ca



Feb. 1, 2016 - CTA Delegation to Council on Proposal for Changes to Marina Policies

The Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) believes that the Marina is a valuable asset to Cobourg. After considerable study, the CTA wishes to highlight a budget item which we feel is not essential and represents a very high cost. We also offer a financial plan for the Marina. [See the link to the delegation here.](#)

This unwarranted expenditure is listed in the Parks and Recreation Department Budget: as "Boat Handling Equip. & Compound Expansion". Essentially, this is a Travelift, haul-out slip and trailer to handle boat launch and haul-out at an estimated cost of \$687,000. No amounts are included for operator salary and benefits, operator training and maintenance of the equipment or possible dredging of the haul-out slip.

governance and tax value, it needs ongoing input and help from the community.

Our vision is *Making Local Government Accountable*.

Our mission is to gather and analyze information about town governance and report this information to Cobourg citizens. We will use our group's broad base of business skills and experience to help council and staff use best practices to discharge their duties in an accountable and transparent way.

CTA Issues

Transparency of Holdco operations and finances

Cost/Benefit justification for town spending

Cobourg Community Centre operating costs

High cost of police and fire protection

Downtown Vitalization and CIVI

Town governance and Coordinator Syndrome

Financial Reporting for Canada's Municipalities

Appendix A: What is a Travelift?



Photograph by Riley Hurdley

In addition to the information on the Travelift we have included an analysis of the fees and capacities of marinas in other nearby towns. The conclusion is that fees in Cobourg are lower than most competing communities so they could easily be raised to help ensure a sustainable facility.

Everyone in Cobourg, from the Town Council, to taxpayers and boaters all want the same thing: for the Marina to be financially responsible and self-sufficient.

The CTA, in the following study, has suggested a number of ways that this can be achieved.

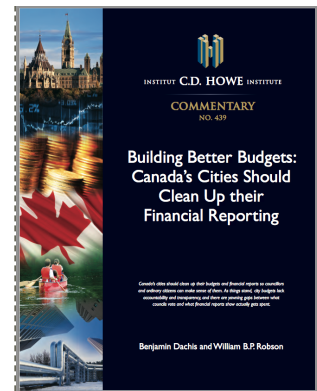
We feel confident that with the skill and co-operation of Councillors and staff directors this can be accomplished.

Please come to Council Chambers on February 1st @ 7 PM to show your support when CTA does its delegation.

CTA Report Card for Cobourg Council

The CTA hopes that you enjoy our first annual report card for our councillors. The idea was created in response to the report card done by the [Northumberland News on June 25, 2015](#). We thought it was sadly out of touch and decided to do our own. Ratings from the CTA's six directors were collected, compiled and consolidated. We also compiled a chart based on our supporters' ratings. You can view it from [here](#).

Debra McCarthy and Theresa Rickerby are carrying about double the number of committees as the Brian Darling, Forrest Rowden and Larry Sherwin (8 vs. 4). In addition, their committees tend to be more labour-intensive and somewhat controversial. [Link to councillor responsibilities here](#). There also appear to be differences in total amount of monies received (Special Mention: Forrest Rowden). See information from 2014 [here](#). Ian Davey has advised that the numbers will be updated sometime in March.



The Study In Brief

In nearly all Canada's major cities, what should be a simple exercise – comparing the spending voted by city council in its annual budget with the actual spending reported at year-end – will baffle any but the most expert reader. While most of Canada's federal and provincial governments now present their budgets on the same basis as their financial reports, municipal governments typically do not. As a result, judging whether a city over- or under-shot its budget targets, and by how much – which should be a simple matter of comparing headline numbers – is not possible for a typical councillor, taxpayer or citizen. [Read full report here](#)



Donations Welcome

The CTA is completely volunteer run with no paid staff, no funding from government or special interests. Donations will be used



2015 COBOURG COUNCIL REPORT CARD










The Cobourg Taxpayers Association (CTA) has released its' 2015 Report Card on Cobourg Council.

Criteria

1. Attendance
2. Understands the needs of constituents
3. Furthers CTA goals of increased transparency, accountability and lower costs of government
4. Accessible by constituents – prompt replies to emails and phone calls without excessive political spin
5. Out-of-the-box thinking – proposes innovative solutions to provide superior services while reducing costs to taxpayers
6. Well informed on issues in their Co-ordinator portfolio – reasoned discussions of issues, alternatives and impact. Challenges other Councillors to justify proposals

Grading System A Excellent / B Good / C Average / D Minimal / F Fail

Overall			1	2	3	4	5	6
	Gil Brocanier	C	A	C	D	B	D	C
	John Henderson	B	A	B	B	A	B	A
	Brian Darling	B	A	B	B	B	C	B
	Debra McCarthy	B	A	B	B	B	C	B
	Forrest Rowden	C	A	C	D	C	D	D
	Theresa Rickerby	B	A	B	B	A	C	B
	Larry Sherwin	D	C	D	C	C	D	F

Ratings from the CTA's six directors were based on the weighted average of the six criteria listed above. The ratings for each criterion for each member of Council from CTA supporters can be found on the CTA's website at www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca.

to pay for Freedom of Information requests, our website and other expenses to help everyone enjoy our Feel Good Town with less government waste and lower taxes.

We appreciate cheques as they avoid the 2.9% Paypal service charge. They can be sent to:

Cobourg Taxpayers Association
24 Pebble Beach Dr.
Cobourg ON K9A 2C5



@CTaxpayers



Cobourg Taxpayers Association

Making Local Government Accountable

www.cobourgtaxpayers.ca